

What is claimed is:

*1* 1. In a round baler for bailing harvested crops and having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the improvement comprising an actuating mechanism having a plurality of belts and rollers disposed adjacent to one another within the baling chamber for enabling baling chamber size to vary when pivoted, and a tensioning arm provided with guide rollers and a pivotal arm, wherein the tensioning arm is pivotally mounted on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank, wherein the first end of a bell crank is pivotally mounted on a side wall of the baler's tailgate, and wherein a second arm of the bell crank is engageable with a frontal part of the housing.

*2* 15 2. A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism has a plurality of rotating compression rollers.

*3* 20 3. A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism has a plurality of mutually interlinked belts.

4. A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein a fixed stop is arranged below the second arm of the bell crank.

5. A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein a tension spring is arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler.

6. In a round baler for bailing harvested crops and having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal

tailgate, the improvement comprising an actuating mechanism having a plurality of circulating flat-type belts and pressure rollers disposed adjacent to one another within a peripheral region of the baling chamber for enabling baling chamber size to vary when pivoted, and a tensioning arm provided with guide rollers and a

5 pivotal arm, wherein the tensioning arm is pivotally mounted on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank, wherein the first end of the bell crank is pivotally mounted on a side wall of the baler's tailgate, and wherein a second arm of the bell crank is connected to a pivotal pawl, which is engageable with a stationary spigot disposed

10 on the frontal part of the housing.

7. A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism has a plurality of rotating compression rollers.

8. A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism has a plurality of mutually interlinked belts.

9. A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein a fixed stop is arranged below the second arm of the bell crank.

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10. A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein a tension spring is arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler.

11. A method for bailing harvested crops utilizing a round baler having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the method comprising:

5 pivoting an actuating mechanism having a plurality of belts and rollers disposed adjacent to one another within the baling chamber to vary baling chamber size;

pivottally mounting a tensioning arm, having guide rollers and a pivotal arm, on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the

10 pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank;

pivottally mounting the first arm of a bell crank on a side wall of the baler's tailgate; and

selectively engaging a second arm of the bell crank with a frontal part of the housing.

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12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the actuating mechanism has a plurality of rotating compression rollers.

13. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the actuating mechanism 20 has a plurality of mutually interlinked belts.

14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein the mutually interlinked belts are flat-type belts.

25 15. The method according to Claim 11, wherein a fixed stop is arranged below the second arm of the bell crank.

16. The method according to Claim 11, wherein a tension spring is arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the 30 baler.

17. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the step of engaging a second arm of the bell crank with a frontal part of the housing includes utilizing a pivotal pawl associated with the second arm of the bell crank and a stationary 5 spigot disposed on the frontal part of the housing.

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